

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tool to prioritize opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the tool comprising:

~~at least one~~ a plurality of modules, each of said modules having a plurality of value drivers;

a plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers,

a plurality of weighting factors, said weighting factors determined by the opportunity being evaluated, wherein a weighting factor is assigned to said plurality of value drivers, to said plurality of user-specified variables and to each of said modules; and

a processor operative to calculate a score for each of said modules and an opportunity value for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using said user-specified variables and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values; and

a data storing device storing the score for each of said modules and ,to store the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity, and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values.

2. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein pre-determined weighting factors assigned ~~are applied~~ to each of the plurality of value drivers vary depending upon each opportunity.

3. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of at least one modules comprises includes a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity.

4. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 3, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to ownership of the entered opportunity.

5. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 3, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to available resources to be applied to development of the entered opportunity.

6. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of at least one modules comprises includes a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity.

7. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 6, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to development cost and development time of the entered opportunity.

8. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 6, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to implementation cost and implementation time of the entered opportunity.

9. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of at least one modules comprises includes an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity.

10. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 9, wherein the efficiency module includes value drivers relating to the efficiency of employee job, job knowledge, job tasks, and employee-customer relations for the entered opportunity.

11. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of at least one modules comprises includes an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the a licensee product and a licensee customer[[s]].

12. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of at least one modules comprises includes an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

13. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 2, wherein a form is published on an accessible information network and displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers.

14. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 13, wherein the form is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each of the entered opportunity.

15. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 14, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers and to use said calculate a module score for each of said modules to calculate at least one module and a total score for each of the entered opportunity.

16. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 15, wherein the calculated total score is a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores for each of the entered opportunity.

17. (Currently Amended) A tool as in claim 15, wherein said score for each of said modules ~~the calculated module score~~ is a pre-determined weighted

average of the user-specified variables within a module for each of the entered opportunity.

18. (Previously Presented) A tool as in claim 15, wherein the database is operative to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

19. (Currently Amended) A system to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, said tool comprising:

a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, said plurality of modules comprising:

a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity;

an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity; and

an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers;

a plurality of user-specified variables, linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers;

a pre-determined weighting factor linked to each of said modules; and

a processor operative to calculate an opportunity value for each entered opportunity and a score for each of said modules by a pre-determined

function using the user-specified variables, to store the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity and the score for each of said modules in a data storage device, and to prioritize the calculated opportunity values.

20. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the marketability module includes value drivers relating to ownership of the entered opportunity and available resources to be applied to development of the entered opportunity.

21. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the cost module includes value drivers relating to development cost, development time, implementation cost, and implementation time of the entered opportunity.

22. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein the efficiency module includes value drivers relating to the efficiency of employee job, job knowledge, job tasks, and employee-customer relations for the entered opportunity.

23. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 19, ~~wherein the at least one module comprises~~ including an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

24. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 19, wherein a form is published on an accessible information network, displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers, and is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

25. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 24, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value

drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for prioritizing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing ~~at least one~~ a plurality of modules, each of said modules having a plurality of value drivers;

providing user-specified variables in response to each of a plurality of value drivers;

providing a plurality of weighting factors, each of said weighting factors determined by the opportunity being evaluated, and assigning a weighting factor to said plurality of value drivers, said plurality of user-specified variables and each of said modules;

calculating an opportunity value for each entered opportunity and a module score for each of said modules using a pre-determined function utilizing the user-specified variables;

storing the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity; and prioritizing the calculated opportunity values.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, ~~further including~~ wherein the step of providing a plurality of weighting factors includes pre-determined

weighting factors to be applied to each of the plurality of value drivers based on each entered opportunity.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said plurality of modules ~~comprises~~ includes a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said plurality of modules ~~comprises~~ includes a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said plurality of modules ~~comprises~~ includes an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity.

31. (Currently Amended) A method claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said plurality of modules ~~comprises~~ includes an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers.

32. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said plurality of modules ~~comprises~~ includes an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 27, further including the step of publishing a form on an accessible information network that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 33, wherein the form is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each of the entered opportunity.

35. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 34, further including the steps of storing the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers and calculating ~~a module score for at least one module and~~ a total score for each of the entered opportunity based on the module scores.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 35, wherein the calculated total score is a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores for each of the entered opportunity.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 35, wherein the calculated module score is a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for each of the entered opportunity.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 34, further including the step of notifying a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.

39. (Currently Amended) A method to prioritize licensing opportunities by assigning a relative calculated value to every opportunity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of modules each having a plurality of value drivers, the plurality of modules comprising:

a market module having a plurality of value drivers relating to the marketability of the entered opportunity;

a cost module having a plurality of value drivers relating to financial needs, implications, and cost feasibility of the entered opportunity;
an efficiency module having a plurality of value drivers relating to efficiency of the entered opportunity; and
an impact module having a plurality of value drivers relating to overall impact of the entered opportunity on the licensee product and licensee customers;
applying pre-determined weighting factors to each of the plurality of value drivers;
providing a published form on an accessible information network that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers;
providing a plurality of user-specified variables, linked to pre-determined weighting factors, in response to the value drivers;
calculating a total score and module scores for each entered opportunity by a pre-determined function using the user-specified variables;
storing the calculated opportunity values for each entered opportunity;
notifying a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores; and
prioritizing the calculated opportunity values.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 39, wherein the at least one module comprises an invention module having a plurality of value drivers relating to spin-off ideas, development challenges, and deficiencies of the entered opportunity.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 39, wherein the published form is a web enabled, multi-layer form that displays at least one of the plurality of value drivers and is operative to submit the plurality of user-specified variables in response to the value drivers to a database for each entered opportunity.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 41, wherein the database is operative to store the user-specified variables in response to the value drivers, to calculate a pre-determined weighted average of the user-specified variables within a module for at least one module score and a pre-determined weighted average of the module scores used for total score determination, and to notify a recipient about the entered opportunity and corresponding total and module scores.